

Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - EDITOR

TUESDAY : : : AUGUST 11

WORK FOR THE DELEGATE.

Delegate Kalaniana'ole is showing a wise curiosity as to what the representative men of the islands want him to do for Hawaii in Congress. In view of this there is one matter the Advertiser wishes to call to his notice on behalf of the agricultural interests of Oahu and through him reach the War Department, the preferences of which in the matter Congress would naturally consult.

Soon after annexation the Federal government took, as a military hospital reservation, some 14,000 acres of the choicest farming land on Oahu situated fifteen or twenty miles from Honolulu. The idea was that regiments of sick men would return from the Philippines and find in the cool air of Oahu's uplands a place to convalesce before going to the harsher climates of the mainland.

The land, not under lease, has never been put to such use or any other. As things turned out it was not needed by the Army medical corps nor is it likely to be. It is too remote from the defensive system of Honolulu and Pearl Harbor to be of much value as a permanent camp, a fact the War Department has recognized by seeking a site nearer town. Hence these 14,000 acres or such large part of them as are not under lease to graziers lie idle, growing up into a lantana jungle.

At the time the tract was taken by the Federal Government, a practical farmer, Byron O. Clark, was ready to colonize it with tillers of the soil. It was his plan to build it up as he and others did the contiguous property of Wahiawa. Had he been let alone, from sixty to one hundred American families might now be domiciled on the reservation, supporting themselves and adding to the food resources of the island—resources which the garrisons of the future will need, in the event of a blockade, far more than they will the title to occupy the land as a resting place.

If the military tract was now in the hands of the Territory it would, we do not doubt, be offered to white colonizers with the result that these islands would the more develop, as the President desires, "along traditional American lines." The military system would benefit by the fact because, as Oahu agriculture stands, it does not produce enough food products to enable the population to hold out against a blockade for three weeks. As an auxiliary to defence the small farmer is indispensable.

The Advertiser believes that if the new Delegate will present these facts and conclusions to the War Department and to the proper committees of Congress he will get the 14,000 acre tract back and make a ten-strike for himself and the people.

The Maui News feels a just pride in the work it has done for diversified industries. So does Side-Lights, the magazine which carries that part of the white man's burden in Hilo. Both these publications, undeterred by the ridicule of those who have not studied the farming question, have worked steadily for the increase of small agriculture in these islands. Their share in creating the interest now aroused and so widely prevalent is cordially admitted by their fellow-worker, the Advertiser.

Working the old excuse that the political colonists at Kailahi camp are "poor people who were burnt out in the fire of 1900," will hardly impress anybody now that the fire claims have been paid. The campers are, or should be, better off than they ever were before with three and a half years of next-to-free lodging for their credit and fire claims money besides. It is time for them to move on.

The spectacle of a District Magistrate yelling "Judas!" at the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and having to be ejected by a bailiff, must have been instructive to the appointing power.

And even the Allen estate was marked for plunder. Evidently the band of looters was broken up in the nick of time.

The Campbell heirs need not bother about Davis now; that incubus is off their necks. Emma Spreckels-Watson will also need a new attorney.

It is announced that Curtis Iaukea will soon show his fine collection of spotted and stained skirts in a Home Rule loan exhibition.

If Attorney-General Andrews had only been Hankey how easily the thing could have been fixed.

If ever a judge drew a clear-cut political line on the bench that Judge is Galbraith.

Justice is done and the heavens are right side up with care.

Davis can't join his own Lawyer's Society now.

JUSTICE IS DONE.

"Justice walks with a leaden heel but strikes with an iron hand." It has taken a long time to force the Get-Rich-Quick fraternity of lawyers into the door but a good beginning was made yesterday when Abram S. Humphreys and George A. Davis were disbarred and Frank E. Thompson was suspended for a year. The only accused man who got away was J. Alfred Magoon who may thank his lucky stars that he was not caught in the Attorney General's expert trap.

The Advertiser which, for years, has sought to establish higher standards at the bench and bar of this community, and which bent all its energies toward the rescue of John K. Sumner, is not going to gloat over the plight of the men who went out of the Supreme Court yesterday afternoon with an indelible brand upon their foreheads. For one of the three it has the sympathy due to a youth who got into bad fellowship; the others it will treat merely as necessary examples of what must befall, in any well regulated land, the members of an honorable profession who let greed overcome scruple and who do not hesitate at a questionable act if there seems to be money in it.

Far more important than the effect upon the culprits is the effect of the Supreme Court decision upon the community at large. This is wholly beneficial. People who have interests at bar or who own property which may yet come before the courts, will breathe more freely. Justice is established; public plunderers and blackmailers no longer have the right of way; unscrupulous lawyers have been taught a lesson which the fraternity will not soon forget and even gang judges will take warning that there is such a thing as trying the patience of good men too far.

If an appeal is made to the United States Supreme Court by such of the disbarred lawyers as may be entitled to practice before that body, it will be in order, unless Federal footing is now cut from under them, to present the evidence given here before the highest tribunal and move for disbarment there. The Supreme Court of the United States, if it took up the matter at all, would make short shrift of such practitioners.

A word is due the Attorney General, Lorrin Andrews, who has conducted three of the four disbarment cases to a successful issue. His work has been of professional expertness, as it was in the Chinese bribery case. A man whom Hawaii can depend upon is now in office and it will serve the highest interests of public justice to keep him there as long as he will stay.

THE CAMPBELL ESTATE INFAMY.

The course of Circuit Judge Gear in appointing George A. Davis ex parte a guardian for the rich Campbell minors, without the knowledge or consent of their mother, their step-father or the trustees of the Campbell estate, leaves Judge Gear with much to explain. It cannot be charged directly, for the lack of proof, that Gear "put up a job" with Davis—his boon companion and former partner—to apply Sumner methods to the Campbell estate in the interests of either or both; but when one sees the risks taken by this Success to Crime Judge on behalf of a legal beast of prey like Davis, he is at liberty to wonder whether they are included in the judicial duties which fall to him under a compensation of \$250 per month.

Let any man of property, whose holdings are represented in an estate with those of his minor children, apply the practices of Gear's court to his own case. He is attending to his private affairs, troubling no one; the estate is in good condition and the heirs are satisfied; the trustees, if there are any, are doing their duty according to law. Then some morning the man takes up his paper and finds to his astonishment that Judge Gear, of his own motion, and without consulting any party at interest, has handed over the financial control of his children to the most notorious estate looter in Honolulu, the personal friend and crony of the court. Think of it! Let every man size it up and tell how it looks to him. Let him consider what chance there would be for his children having anything left when the estate wrecker and the latter's old pal on the bench had gotten through with them.

The methods used in the Sumner case apply equally to the Campbell case and Judge Gear is a direct party to the outrage. Let him, if he will, stand up from the bench which he has so often and so causelessly disgraced and tell the public what precedent there is for appointing as guardian for the Campbell heirs a man who is not related to them by blood, marriage or business, who is distasteful to them, and whose proposed services are already being performed by the mother with whom they live and by the trustees whom their father appointed in his will? Let him say why he chose a man of such irresponsible financial methods as Davis to take charge of a great property. Let him explain why he should have risked public rebuke and suspicion and become sponsor for a rank injustice and fraud, if there was to be nothing in it for him but the thanks of Davis.

But we shall hear no confession—only the echo, perhaps, of the judicial jail-deliverer's famous toast: Success to Crime!

THE ARMY STAFF.

[The Official and Commercial Record.]

The presence in Honolulu of seven members of the new general staff, which controls the United States Army, is an event of more than passing importance. The general staff are the eyes, ears and brains of the army.

They ascertain facts and plan campaigns, fortifications and policies. They do not supersede the executive authority of the officers in direct command of the army, but they plan out and decide upon the general lines of action to be taken, and the commanding officers carry out the plans. The general staff is not filled by promotion by seniority, by means of which the poorest as well as the best material in the army successively attains rank by lapse of time, irrespective of merit. They are especially selected and appointed from among the brightest and ablest men of the army. That we should have seven out of a total of forty three, the full staff, in our city at one time, is a great thing for Hawaii. It means that one sixth of the

entire governing body of the United States Army is on the ground, able to see for themselves the local conditions and necessities. Hereafter when any question arises as to procedure in Hawaii, there will be a strong representation on the staff of men who know by personal observation just what the conditions are, instead of having to learn them at second hand. This will frequently mean action instead of waiting to find out what ought to be done.

The opportunity ought not to be lost by Honolulu business men and organizations to meet the members of the staff, acquaint them with local sentiments and desires, and consult with them as to the best methods of accomplishing what is wanted. Honolulu wants a military post established at Kahaui, as well as a naval station at Pearl Harbor. Congress must make the appropriations for both, but the general staff is most powerful in securing appropriations and in expending them. A strong representation of this powerful body is now here and individually and collectively the leading citizens of Honolulu should improve the opportunity to meet them.

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